

CITY'S HEALTH IS GUARDED BY CONSTANT CARE

Department Active in Education and in Prevention

Tallahassee public health program as practiced by the Leon county health department, is largely a matter of educating the people in ways of sanitary living and practical preventive measures.

The department, headed by Dr. L. J. Graves, is one of the oldest coordinated city-county health units in Florida, and has an outstanding record of disease control since its institution in 1931.

There has been no death from diphtheria in the county for four years, no typhoid death during the same time, and there has been no case of smallpox since the unit was established.

In the past six years there has been only one small and very mild epidemic of scarlet fever; and hookworm, the scourge of many sections of Florida, is under almost complete control—even in the rural sections, according to Dr. Graves.

One important and beneficial work of the department was education of persons who live in sections not provided with sewerage in the proper construction of sanitary outhouses.

"So well did the educational program work, that the city of Tallahassee is 95 per cent sanitary as far as sewage disposal goes, and the county is not far behind," Dr. Graves says.

Biggest problem of the department is in the control and prevention of malarial fever; however a rigorous program is being carried on, and much progress is being made toward eradication of the malaria-carrying mosquito.

Immunization programs are carried on by the department in all county schools, both for white and negro pupils. This work is supervised by Dr. Graves and is under direct administration of three registered nurses, two white and one

Influenza, although it is a constant menace because of the many visitors to Tallahassee during sessions of the state legislature and during the terms of the Florida State College for Women, also is being well-controlled by the department.

Work of the department is entirely preventive and educational. Doctors and nurses in the unit are not allowed to prescribe treatment for patients who visit the clinics and ask for medicinal advice.

However educational pre-natal clinics are held weekly at the department headquarters for negro patients by a negro physician, and white doctors hold pre-natal clinics twice a month and give advice to white patients.

Co-operating with the health department is the city health council, composed of delegates from various civic organizations, which raises funds to provide food for under-nourished children.

Cases found by the health department to require curative treatment are turned over to the Leon County Welfare association, which, with the health council, sponsors a curative program for indigent patients.

Dentists, specialists and general physicians cooperate readily in provision of treatment for needy patients.

Since the past school term closed, about 25 children have had their tonsils removed by surgeons who have donated their time and services. Dentists have done much work on the teeth of indigents, and eye specialists have prescribed for glasses which have been provided by the welfare group and the civic organizations.